

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Impacts of the Heat Island Phenomena Presentation**

Dr. Jeff Luvall, senior research scientist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center's Global Hydrology and Climate Center will give a presentation on the impacts of urban heat islands on air quality and energy consumption in the Salt Lake Valley. These islands are layers of hot air trapped above urban areas. The media and public are invited to attend this presentation on Monday, April 16th from 11:00 to 1:00 PM at the Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. In addition, computers will be set up to allow people to access images of specific areas and neighborhoods to see how hot they are compared to other parts of the county. Dr. Luvall will remain afterwards to answer questions.

During the summer of 1998, Dr. Luvall and other NASA researchers took infrared images of the Salt Lake Valley using a heat-sensing system attached to a Lear jet. The team's goals were to locate urban heat islands within the valley, then predict the impacts of increased air temperatures on air quality and cooling energy consumption in buildings. The fly-over event in 1998 was the focus of several national television news programs.

Dr. Luvall will present the results of the 1998 study. He will explain that Cool Communities strategies, such as use of reflective roofs, pavement surfaces, and planting of trees, shrubs, and vines, and how they can help reduce air temperatures, ozone concentrations, and energy consumption. Additional topics of discussion will be Dr. Luvall's work with the Salt Lake Organizing Committee in revitalizing the city by planting greenways and high reflective surface materials.

TreeUtah and the Office of Energy are sponsoring this program. For more information, call TreeUtah at 364-2122 or the Office of Energy at 538-8690 or 538-8610.

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